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# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY USSR (Azerbaijani SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Border Guard Training and Maneuvers

DATE DISTR. 19 May 1955

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Arrival at Basic Training Group

1.

four hours of scheduled training in close order drill, 25X1  
military regulations, and political subjects. The rigidly-scheduled  
border guard basic training period which lasted for 72 days (including week ends)

Each day,

Basic Training Schedule

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2. The typical week day training schedule was as follows:

0530	Reveille
0530-0600	Physical training
0600-0615	Clean up period

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0615-0700	Inspection of uniform, weapon, and personal appearance
0700-0730	Political formation
0730-0800	Breakfast
0800-1200	Training
1200-1300	Dinner
1300-1430	Rest period
1430-1500	Preliminary rifle instruction
1500-1830	Training
1830-1900	Cleaning and disassembly of weapons
1900-2000	Supper
2000-2130	Political formation
2130-2200	Free period
2200-2230	Evening parade
2230	Taps

3. On Saturdays, this schedule was adhered to through the breakfast period. There was no training after that but, instead, trainees spent the morning on work details. After dinner, all trainees were free but were not allowed outside of the otryad area. In the evening before supper, films were shown for about 1 1/2 hours. However, there was an evening parade at the usual time. On Sundays, all trainees were free after the cleanup period; but, although there were no details, they could not leave the otryad area. In the evening before supper, films were shown as they were on Saturdays. There was no evening parade and taps was at about 2000 hours.

#### Organization for Basic Training

4. The entire basic training group of 350 trainees was under the command of a border guard major who was assisted by a border guard captain. In addition, the training staff comprised the following border guard personnel: two political officers for the entire group, a lieutenant and a junior lieutenant, and a senior lieutenant Secretary of the Komsomol Organization (Komsorg).
5. The entire training group was divided into ten training platoons, each commanded by a junior lieutenant, lieutenant, or senior lieutenant platoon commander, and a sergeant who was assistant platoon commander. Each platoon was again divided into six or seven squads which were commanded by sergeants, corporals, or even privates-first-class. All training was supervised and conducted by the above personnel. The only exceptions were on a few rare occasions when the otryad CO, (a border guard colonel), and a representative of the military tribunal, (a border guard major), conducted talks or lectures. In most cases, [redacted] group trained by platoons. However, physical and tactical training was conducted by squads. For political formations and special tasks or lectures, the entire training group was gathered in the club or lecture hall.

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#### Description of Training

6. Training was identical for all members of [redacted] training group, except when weapons were concerned. [redacted] some of the trainees received training with carbines and LMGs while others trained with SMGs and HMGs; [redacted] The weapons with which recruits trained were determined by their projected assignments. [redacted]

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<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hours per Week</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Physical training	Otryad area	3½	Running, rope climbing, exercises on horizontal bar and horse.
Political Information (Politinformatsiya)	Club	6½	Political education based on current events.
Border Guard Training	Club, field	10	Lectures and practical training, study of plowed strip, identification of tracks left on plowed strip, various types of border guard patrols, practical application of border guard patrol duty, detention of illegal border crossers, lectures on various border guard devices, electrical fences, etc. In a few instances, trainees practiced patrol duty at night, armed with carbines and blank shells.
Tactical Training	Field	10	Trainees carried gas masks, entrenching tool, two wooden grenades, carbines, and blank shells. They dug themselves into the snow, practiced squad attack, defense tactics, camouflage, and reconnaissance.

[redacted] this training never involved the use of live ammunition, real gas, or smoke-screens. There were a few lectures on the use of the gas mask but no lectures on the use of gas, atomic weapons, atomic defense, or bacteriological warfare.

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<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hours per Weeks per</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction	Otryad area	2½	This comprised the follow- ing: (1) Daily PRI(trenazh) in the otryad area with the carbine and the LMG.
	Field	?	(2) Additional preliminary rifle instruction with carbine, LMG, and two wooden dummy hand grenades. This took place in conjunct- ion with the tactical train- ing in the field.
	Firing Range	2½	(3) Preliminary rifle instruction on the firing range with blank shells. This was known as "ognevaya podgotovka" and was designed to teach trainees how to load rapidly (5 rounds in 5 seconds) and to accustom them to the actual firing of carbines and LMGs. This training also included the throwing of wooden grenades into a circle two meters in diameter located at a distance of 30 m. The circle was marked off on the ground by digging a circular furrow with spades.
Firing	Firing Range	?	All firing was done from a prone position with slow fire. During his basic training, [redacted] fired as follows: (1) Three times with a carbine at bulls-eye targets, 100 m distant, with three rounds within one to two minutes. Trainees had to score 21 or better; a bulls- eye counted 10. (2) Three times with a carbine as in (1) above but at targets located at 200 m, with four rounds, and for a score of 24 or better. (3) Four times with the LMG at silhouette targets located at 200 m, 9 rounds within 1-2 minutes.

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<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hours per Week</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Weapons study (matchast)	Otryad area	6	Disassembly of the LMG and carbine and study of parts and mechanism; this was in addition to the daily period devoted to cleaning these weapons.
Close order drill	Otryad area	4	None
Political Lectures	Club	4	Lectures and questions and answers on various subjects such as the October 1953 Party Congress, popular elections, and voting.
Manuals and Regulations	Otryad area	3½	Study of the following manuals: <u>Garrison and Guard Duty Manual (Ustav Garnizonnoy Karaul'noy Sluzhby)</u> , <u>Infantry Combat Manual (Boevoy Ustav Pekhoty)</u> , and <u>Border Guard Patrol Regulations (Instruktsii dlya Resenya Sluzhby Pogranichnykh Naryadov)</u> .
Movies	Club	3	Almost all films were for propaganda and entertainment. <u>Border Guard Zastava in the Mountains</u> , which depicted a popular uprising somewhere in the Far East in 1938 and showed how it was quelled by border guard troops; <u>Silvery Dust</u> , a propaganda film about an American professor who invented deadly dust or gas which he used for experiments on monkeys. When the professor tried to experiment on two Negroes, he was prevented from killing them; <u>Tarzan</u> , a film supposedly captured from the Germans according to a caption at the beginning of the film also saw newsreels.

Basic Training Examinations

At the end of basic training, examinations were held for three days. All examinations and tests were held before a border guard district commission from border guard district Headquarters in Baku; this commission consisted of several border guard officers from the rank of lieutenant to colonel.

All officers of the 42 Border Guard Otryad

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 were present but only as observers and bystanders. They participated in no way in conducting the examinations. Examinations were taken by training platoons and were either oral or practical; there were no written tests.

Individual questions varied with individual weapons and assignments.

- a. Border Guard Patrol Duty: Oral questions on the contents of the Border Guard Patrol Duty Regulations.
- b. Firing: From a prone position with a LMG, nine rounds at a silhouette target located at 200 m.
- c. Weapons Test: Disassembly and assembly of the LMG according to the manual.
- d. Infantry Manual Test: [redacted] asked to enumerate all military ranks from private to general. 25X1
- e. Close Order Drill Test: By squads.
- f. Tactical Examination: Oral questions on individual and squad defense, attack, and combat tactics. Some trainees had to demonstrate how to attack from a trench.
- g. Political Examination: Questions on the 20 October 1953 Party Congress and on Communist leaders.
- h. Physical Fitness Test: Exercises on the horizontal bar.

3. [redacted] all trainees passed the tests. Following the tests, the entire training group gathered in the club where some of the trainees received certificates of achievement for excellent marksmanship. 25X1

## B. Garrison Training

### Organization

1. Following the test described in paragraph 7 above, [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] The daily schedule at the 3d Border Guard Zastava comprised the following: border guard duty (eight hours), other training including physical training, weapons inspection, and other inspections (three hours), work details (two hours), political training (two hours), sleep (seven hours), and free time (two hours). On Saturdays and Sundays, there was no training but the rest of the schedule applied. On the average, members [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] had one or two days free a month. 25X1

2. Reveille was at 0400 hours and taps at 2100 hours. However, because border guard patrols had to be carried out 24 hours a day, there had to be two shifts for training and work details in addition to the three daily shifts for the various border guard duties and patrols. A daily oral field order (boyevoy prikaz) specified which patrols were needed while a daily written field schedule (boyevoy raschet) listed the specific duties for the members [redacted]. Normally, from 1800 hours to 0200 hours, one patrol or two men each was on border guard duty on each flank. From 2000 to 0100 hours, one more patrol of two men each was on duty on each flank. From 2000 hours to 0400 hours, three men alternated as zastava guards and there were two zastava COs each on duty for 12 hours. There were also other details such as checking passengers on the train. 25X1

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11. The first sergeant did not serve on patrols and such types of duty but only checked patrols and posts. He was always accompanied by another EM. The other two sergeants went on patrol only twice a week for eight hours at a time. One private first class, in addition to being the secretary of the zastava Komsomol organization, participated in all border guard duty and training and was exempt only from work details. The cooks had four hours of daily border guard duty and participated in all training. [redacted] the meals served to his unit did not require much preparation. The dog trainers only served on work details directly related to dogs. The horse groom, in addition to training and taking care of the horses, had only four hours of daily border guard duty. 25X1
12. In view of the above and in order not to interfere with border guard patrols and work details, training was conducted at various times of the day and personnel [redacted] could not all participate simultaneously but took their training whenever possible. All training was normally given by the three sergeants. Sometimes, the zastava CO conducted border guard duty training. The political officer normally conducted all political lectures and the officer for line matters supervised preliminary rifle instruction and firing. 25X1

Subjects

13. Garrison training [redacted] consisted of the following subjects: 25X1
- a. Physical Training: Thirty minutes in the morning or after dinner; this consisted of exercises on the horizontal bar and running. 25X1
  - b. Political Training: [redacted] many lectures on the Indo-Chinese war and lectures on possible aggression. 25X1
  - c. Border Guard Duty: Refresher lectures on border guard patrol regulations. 25X1
  - d. Preliminary Rifle Instruction: In weapons assigned to each soldier. [redacted] 25X1
  - e. Firing: [redacted] unit fired on the average of twice a month on the range near the border. [redacted] firing with the carbine from various positions (prone, kneeling, and standing), six rounds of slow fire at targets located at a distance of 200 or 300 m. A limited time was allowed for firing [redacted] 25X1
  - [redacted] Infrequently, [redacted] unit had to practice night firing and the men were ordered to simulate two-man patrols with carbines. Two targets suddenly appeared at 50 or 75 m and they had to fire six rounds at these targets. 25X1
  - f. Tactical Training: Usually with blanks. The EM also practiced digging foxholes. 25X1
  - g. Weapons study: [redacted] soldiers studied the weapons assigned to them. 25X1

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## h. Miscellaneous:

guard troops not on border guard duty went on a 20-kilometer march in full field equipment. There were also three five-kilometer cross-country runs in athletic dress

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Examinations

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examinations were normally scheduled twice a year - in the spring and in the fall. The examinations were given by representatives of the border guard district.

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examining commission merely spot-checked the 42d Border Guard Otryad, inspecting and examining only the zastavy of the 3d Komendatura.

Practice Alerts

15.

About four times a month, the CO of the 3d Border Guard Zastava called a practice alert. Each time, the CO gave the zastava CQ advance notice of his intention to call an alert at a certain time and the CQ then called the alert as specified by the CO. Normally, alerts were called alternately: either the alert "to the guns" ("v ruzh'ya") or the alert "into combat" ("k boyu"). In the case of an alert of the first type, the CQ called out during the night, "zastava to the guns!" All troops not on patrol then fell out in front of the barracks. They were fully-dressed and equipped with weapons and pack. Crew-served weapons such as LMGs were also taken along. The zastava CO then ordered the troops to double-time about one kilometer down the road and back and he double-timed with them. After this, the troops again formed in the zastava area and the CO inspected their equipment and checked to see whether or not they had originally fallen out with full equipment. Finally, they were dismissed and allowed to return to sleep. This type of alert was occasionally called during the day as a form of punishment or a disciplinary measure if the EM had been slow in falling out for a daytime formation; these lasted for an average of 40 minutes. The second type of alert was also announced by the CQ with the shout of "zastava into combat". All border guard soldiers not on patrol then took their clothing, individual weapons, LMGs, and HMGs to the trenches which were located near the zastava buildings. There, the troops got dressed and organized their equipment. The CO then inspected them to see whether or not they had brought all necessary equipment. This type of alert lasted about 25 minutes.

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